

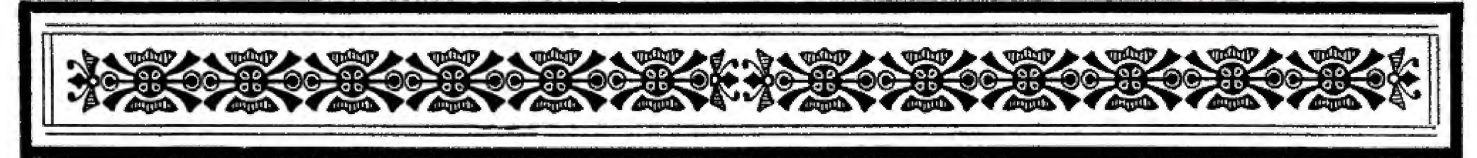
## RACCOON OBITUARY

On the 13th of November, an animal friend and accomplice was lost to the menace of vehicular culture downtown. Her nimble, pilfering fingers were an asset to her and her clan. Her mask an inspiration. Her talents for foraging food anywhere scraps were found, a necessity. Perhaps she was the one reported to have evaded fare on local transit, recently, as though human impositions can be applied, let alone restrain, our animal cousins. In a world that impedes our ability to live, we never forget our fellow animals struck down for keeping on regardless – may we be as relentless. Here's to all those that survive her, appreciate her, and remember her, in hopes that all those animals surviving the anthropocene go on to thrive and overcome that which struck her down.



A PHILADELPHIA ANARCHIST PERIODICAL FROM OCCUPIED LENAPE TERRITORY

# ANATHEMA



Volume III

November 2017

Issue IX

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## WHAT WENT DOWN

**October:** Graffiti and posters against the themes of the IACP, colonialism, and police.

**October:** Sponsors of the IACP police conference have with windows attacked with glass etch. Later two of their security cameras are removed as well. "We left behind a message in glass etch across the entirety of two building entrances, reading: "FUCK THE POLICE," "NO IACP," and a circle-a or two."

**October 14:** Fascists celebrating Leif Ericson Day are interrupted by anti-fascists. Anti-fascists are injured. "While the Nazis' event was totally ruined and shut down prematurely both at Fairmount and FDR, we cannot claim full victory when any of our comrades are injured. [...] That all said, it's safe to say that Leif Erikson Day 2017 was a disaster for KSS thanks to the bravery and hard work of local and regional Anti-Fascists."

**Late October:** Memorials for dead cops vandalized. "Cops think revolution is a flower to be crushed. Year after year, they think they can surround us with monuments celebrating state oppression. They understand neither seasons nor seeds."

**October 18:** At 2:15pm someone presented a threatening demand note to a teller at the Freedom Credit Union at 4900 Princeton Avenue, displayed a gun tucked into his waistband, and left on foot with cash.

**October 28:** At 12:15pm someone presented a threatening demand note that referenced a gun at the TD Bank at 3930 Woodhaven Road and made off on foot with cash.

**October 30:** At approximately 2:51 p.m. someone entered the M&T Bank branch located at 6500 Castor Avenue and presented a teller a threatening demand note. After obtaining an undisclosed amount of cash, they left the area of the bank on foot.

**November 4:** At 9:15 a.m. someone presented a threatening demand note that referenced a gun at the Citizens Bank at 10650 Bustleton Avenue and departed with cash.

**November 6:** At 2:19pm someone presented a threatening demand note to a teller and displayed a gun tucked into his waistband while inside the PNC

Bank at 2401 Welsh Road. They departed on foot with cash in hand.

**November 10:** #defendj2oresistance graffiti spotted over 76.

**November 11:** A rally, dance party, and puppet show takes place at the art museum in solidarity with J20 defendants. "Despite unseasonably cold weather we danced our asses off, called to drop the charges and raised awareness about our upcoming trials."

**November 16:** Two or three police cars and a police station are vandalized on South Street. Anarchist pamphlets are left at the scene. "We don't want to change this system. We want to destroy it! We want revenge! We want the entire policing system out of our lives now!" ★



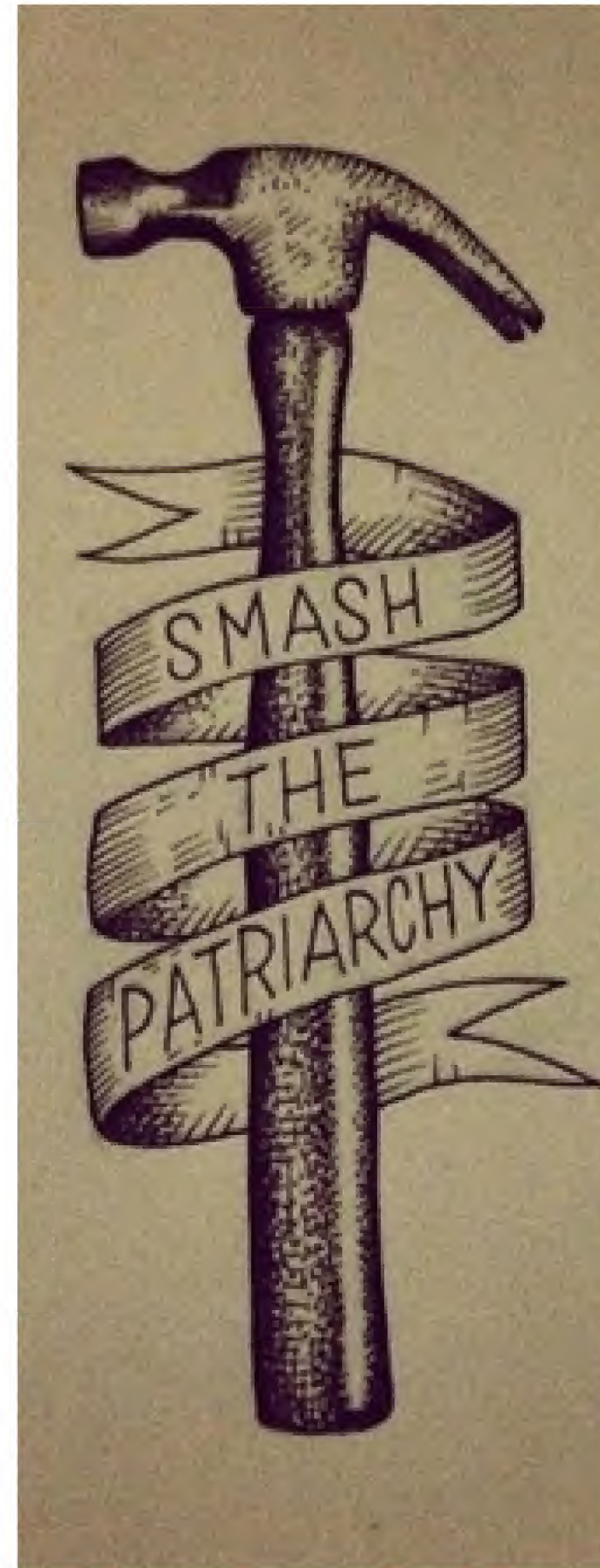
## LETTER FROM MICHAEL KIMBLE

On the evening of Friday, Oct. 3, 2017 prisoners at Holman prison in Alabama began a work strike in protest to the suspension of weekend family visitation, the continued and ongoing of harassment by Ala. Dept. of Corrections CERT (riot squad) against prisoners, including physical assaults on prisoners, arbitrary shakedowns and the total disrespect CERT members show towards prisoners.

The CERT has been assigned to Holman Oct. of 2016 after rebellious prisoners staged a number of work strikes, riots and the stabbings of warden Carter Davenport corrections officer Tait and the killing of corrections officer Bettis.

The work strike length is indefinite. Pass the word on and express your solidarity with the prison rebels held captive at Holman by demonstrating and direct action.

-Michael Kimble  
Holman Prison ★



## PHILLY VEGAN AWARDS

In continued celebration of moralism and consumer identity, billed as "values," the Philadelphia Friends Center played host to the Philly Vegan Awards on Friday, November 10th. The not-so-inexpensive door fee of \$25 benefitted the American Vegan Society's Vegan Cuisine Initiative in Greater Philadelphia, further investing in so-called "conscious" capitalism. The awards covered a range of different paid dining options and were presented to a variety of different local restaurants. The award finale was a lifetime achievement award presented to upscale restaurateurs Rich Landau and Kate Jacoby for their expensive restaurants (Horizons, previously, Vege currently) and their training of others that now run other for-profit vegan establishments in the city.

Notably lacking from the award categories were any acknowledgement of activism in solidarity with, or even in defense of, animals; nevermind the possibility of appreciating actual animal liberation.



the car park.

We targeted the private cars of the cops, to the indignation of the press, because we wanted to attack the individuals who wear the uniforms rather than their function, their personal property rather than their tools of work. We think that roles exist because there are people to fill them. If behind every uniform there is a human, then that is who we sought to harm.

Finally, we disappeared in a burst of laughter, hurrying away...

On the way back, we were euphoric. We felt light, strong, bonded, with the feeling that nothing could stop us anymore. We have no intention of letting anybody take this feeling of power away from us, but making it grow.

This text is also a message addressed to all the people who find themselves imprisoned in roles of supposed victims, and who conflictualize their relationship with the world to leave them, who consider themselves as individuals, without denying that they are marked by the social catagories from which they originate.

We are convinced that our limitations are both psychological and social, that in assuming these roles we become our own cops.

By organizing in affinity, and by attacking, we push these limitations.

To all the people whose actions and positions give us strength, to the two people incarcerated for the case of the burnt cop car, to the accused of Scripta Manent.

For those who give fuel to the flames from the bottom of their eyes.★

PANOPTICON CONSUMES BIKE TRAIL



Democratic City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson announced Wednesday that installation has begun of 21 cameras covering eight entrances along the Schuylkill River Trail from Arch Street to the South Street Bridge.

Johnson joined Council President Darrell Clarke in funding the \$150,000 safety project along that trail that has had some highly-publicized public safety troubles recently.

“If you’re outside enjoying yourself in any public space here in the city of Philadelphia you should feel safe” regardless of where you are, Johnson said.

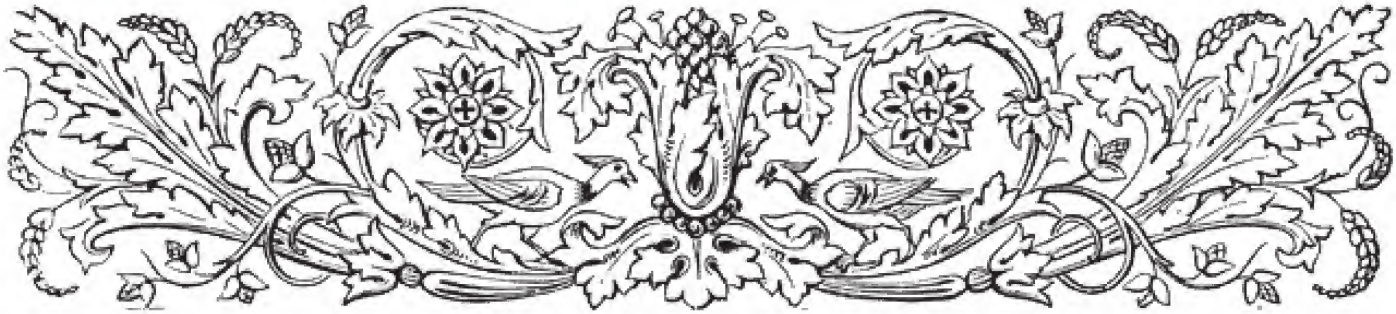
The first camera was being put in place near Locust Street Wednesday. Johnson hopes the rest of the cameras will be installed in the coming weeks.

The city will also dispatch undercover and bicycle officers and town watch volunteers to look over the trail. Improved lighting and added mileposts will make it easier for people who are victimized to report their location, Johnson said.

In the future, Johnson wants to also have call boxes installed since people running along the trail may not have their cellphone on them.★



5 POINTS AGAINST WAITING FOR THE NEXT BIG DEMO



Autonomous initiative is the life blood of anarchy.

Without individuals dreaming, scheming, and turning their thoughts into action, nothing happens. Protest organizers are not special; they imagine a situation they want to bring to life and invite others to help them make it happen. The same is true for any anarchist endeavor involving more than one person. Gardens, attacks, fundraisers, occupations, bands, they’re all the result of people deciding to make their ideas realities. The constant process of thinking and acting without being told to is what makes anarchy possible. Some people call this autonomy, and without it anarchy is impossible.

Waiting for protests places the responsibility to take action on others.

As anarchists, we reject the notion that others are responsible for making our lives how we want them to be. We know better than to trust our leaders to fulfill our needs and desires. We have to make what we want ourselves. When we wait for protests instead of doing what we want, we pass along the responsibility of meeting our needs to organizers, marshals, activists, or whoever else is planning the next big thing. If we are going to practice self-determination, we can’t let ourselves be carried by the current of the next protest.

Waiting for protests centralizes our power.

There is an infinite number of ways we can be powerful; the struggle is multi-form. We can build our capacity to live and support one another, we can sharpen our analysis to better understand and fight authority, we can gain confidence and learn new skills, we can attack what keeps us from freedom. When we drop our projects to look forward to the next march, we limit our power to only one form.

Waiting for protests means only acting with liberals and police.

All the big protests guarantee two things: police and liberals. Police are paid to maintain the social peace, and liberals are more than willing to try to maintain it for free. These people are less than ideal company for creative rebels. Certainly some things can still happen with them around, but usually much less — why try to do with them around what we can do without them any other day? This isn’t a call to abandon marches and rallies altogether, but instead to do things outside of and alongside them when that makes more sense.

Waiting for protests is waiting.

It can never be repeated enough: “the secret is to really begin”. When we put off taking the actions we know are necessary to create the lives we want, lives free of domination, we add to the inertia of inaction that we are fighting against. Anarchy is not just a distant horizon to be achieved after the revolution, it is also every moment of freedom lived in the here and now.★



## THE PRICE OF AMAZON



Known for its support of policing through building cloud services for the CIA and sponsoring the recent IACP conference in Philly, its contributions to gentrification in Seattle, its complicit support of surveillance culture that contributes to a prison society, technocratic aspirations that improve state control and further alienate us, the corresponding destruction of wild nature, its union busting, and even its eradication of small businesses that can't compete with its monolithic corporate structure undercutting them at every turn, it seems that Amazon is something that everyone can find opposition to. Yet 238 different towns across North America are falling all over themselves to beg Amazon to build a new headquarters in their town – Philly included.

The insurrectionary among us certainly elevate some of those concerns over others, but a campaign against Amazon could see further dispersal and diffusion of resistance beyond radical tendencies. Some anarchists have discussed putting out a call for a friendly competition between cities to dissuade Amazon from moving to their area. With Amazon delivery vans and package lockers throughout the world, it's not hard to imagine accessible targets. There is a historical precedent for success in such campaigns through insurrectionary informality, like the Italian resistance to a U.S. military base that was being built in the Southern region of the nation. The resistance, which Jean Weir and Alfredo Bonanno helped organize, used diffuse, informal and asymmetric tactics based on affinity group models.

Whether such a campaign, if won, would lend us better footing in a fight for autonomy in our communities, or simply defer constant expansion of capital, displacement of marginalized people, and exploitation and destruction of all living things, is up for debate.

### IN DEFENSE OF OUR HOMES

In April 2017, the Center City District reported that “a steady increase in downtown households has supported the construction of new apartments, townhouses and condominiums, as rents and sales prices have continued to rise.” Many, however, have speculated

that this ballooning housing bubble has exceeded demand, threatening to leave new properties vacant and their corresponding companies bankrupt. This is advantageous in its interference in gentrification that has been displacing long-time residents in lower income brackets, likely reducing rent and property taxes, and reinvigorating squatting opportunities throughout the city that have dwindled significantly in the last decade. It also would land a minor blow on local capital and create new opportunities for radical infrastructure to manifest.

If Amazon were to move to town, however, we could see the exact opposite happen, with the consequences mimicking the enormous displacements in San Francisco and Seattle after tech booms there – the latter specifically due to Amazon, along with Microsoft.

Large influxes of so-called millennials involved in tech start-ups have already so altered the urban landscape in Philly that a large concentration of their businesses on 3rd Street north of Market has led to it being dubbed “N3RD ST.” Additionally, there has been expansive development in the Navy Yard and University City areas of the city (by the Urban Outfitters conglomerate and Science Center, respectively) that has brought in similar demographics. There is already a great deal of expanding infrastructure in place for the Amazon plan, including Navy Yard shuttles (similar to the Google buses that have previously been blockaded by comrades in San Francisco and Seattle) and ever-encroaching University City security and police patrols in West Philly.

These programs provide a sense of convenience and safety for the current wave of gentrifiers, who are more likely to be driven away from the city by danger to their persons, general blight, and destruction of their property – a tactic difficult to co-opt by activists or authority. Graffiti can be an exception to this when it crosses the line into street art, as we've seen yuppies taking graffiti tours in Brooklyn and groups like Vurt Creative contributing murals to Philadelphia that have aided gentrification in the Kensington area. On the other hand, perceived blight like “we buy houses” signs contribute to gentrification of neighborhoods, hence the recent bounty for them put up by a West Philly resident.

The more oblique threats written on walls, in addition to classics like broken windows and even arson, have contributed to dissuading development of areas before; it does take consistency to pull off, however. One

## WORLD NEWS



“Like some Indymedias, for example, we also received, the same day and at the same time, the summons from the Ministry of the Interior to withdraw the communiqué of the very beautiful attack on the barracks of the gendarmerie of Grenoble, which there was no intention of doing, not even for a quarter of a second. As others have already written, it is better for a site to go (or become more difficult to access) and to search for other means and instruments, rather than accept such blackmail from the henchmen of the State.”

-The French site Brèves du désordre



### Kara Wild Freed!

American trans anarchist Kara Wild has been released from prison after spending seventeen months locked up in a French men's prison. She was accused of smashing out the window of a police car before it was set on fire during a demonstration against labor reforms in Paris. Her support team is asking for money to help her reintegrate into life outside of prison. Visit [freekarawild.org](http://freekarawild.org) to learn more about her situation, donate, or see her art.



### The Desire to End the Logic of Victimization by Creating Strong Affinity Groups & Attacking: An Empowerment of Praxis (France)

Because we do not want to remain in the position of victims that society would like to categorize us by recognizing us as women. Victims, because we would not be able to

be autonomous, to defend ourselves, to lead our lives as we see fit. We would be weak individuals, too sensitive, subject to hormonal moods, dependent and fragile. We would need strong figures to rescue us, doctors to look after us, children to nurture, cops to protect us.

Our education anchors this crap in our heads and we end up integrating it. To fight against sexism, for us, is to fight against gender. And to fight against gender is to refuse the logic of gender assignment, without denying that it also conditions us.

We do not want to be defined by the particularities of our bodies but by what results from our choices, our ethics and our actions. Even if we would like to destroy gender, it feels good to find ourselves among people who share the same feelings, who live in their flesh what it means to be assigned as women, and who have the same desire to get rid of it. Together we prove to ourselves that we are capable of acting on our ideas, and that we need no one but ourselves to do it. We prepare our revenge for all the times that we were discouraged by persuading ourselves that we were not capable, that we did not have either the skills, the strength nor the means to defuse the logic that causes us to postpone forever the moment to express our anger and our desires.

We materialized this desire for revenge by organizing ourselves to attack the gendarmerie in Meylan.

To ensure our safety during the attack (and to play a joke on the firefighters) we padlocked the car access gate to the barracks. We then spent ten minutes squatting in the woods along the fence, but we realized that we could not spend the night there, and that at a certain point, we had to go into action. We had to face our stress and overcome it. So after a final smile and a hug, we cut the fence. With ten liters of petrol, we quietly attacked



[“The Price...” cont. from pg. 5]

it, unless it is replaced by some still more advanced innovation. Not only do people become dependent as individuals on a new item of technology, but, even more, the system as a whole becomes dependent on it. (Imagine what would happen to the system today if computers, for example, were eliminated.)”

As the Tribune journalist says, “These devices have gone from servants to masters.”

Using technologies for their own destruction has merit (consider, for instance, the computer virus that attacked Iranian nuclear centrifuges), but it is no place from which to build. Open source software is eventually co-opted by government, control of Twitter (which originally began as a method for activists to communicate about police positions during protests) is now utilized by the U.S. for regime change in other nations, and most technologies eventually become weaponized by governments for their murderous purposes (from said Iran nuclear hack to the creation of dynamite and nuclear power – much to Einstein’s lament) – all leading to more advanced controls in favor of authority.

Even the full automation promised by pro-technology communists is flawed. Herbert Marcuse chronicles the

tendency of mechanization to assimilate workers into itself:

“The assimilating trend shows forth in the occupational stratification. In the key industrial establishments, the “blue-collar” work force declines in relation to the “white-collar” element...Assimilation in needs and aspirations, in the standard of living, in leisure activities, in politics derives from an integration... in the material process of production...The new technological work-world thus enforces a weakening of the negative position of the working class...Domination is transfigured into administration.”

Again, technology becomes master, in addition to serving the needs of power in its attempts to control us. End-to-end encryption and other methods of protecting ourselves while using advanced technologies are necessary so long as we use those technologies, but are not a solution in themselves. The solutions come from opposing the integration of these subtle controls into our lives; as was attempted by the luddites, the diggers, the bolt weevils, and many others. Solutions also come from preventing their purveyors from setting their disingenuous electronic roots in our communities – and remembering that as wireless as the world may seem, there is a diffuse network of wires (and other largely unguarded infrastructure) needed to maintain them.★

successful arson of OCF row homes under construction in the Point Breeze neighborhood this past May Day occurred at great cost to the self-insured real estate developer Ori Feibush, but a steady influx of yuppies without a sustained threat to interested parties of an equal or greater level means he is still selling those properties upon completion, however much it’s delayed.

## AGAINST THE TECHNOCRATS AND THEIR WORLD

*“That’s why we subscribe to this theory of the rainforest for talent development feasting on biodiversity. That matches I think the biggest rainforest, which is, I think, Amazon, right?”*

- Dr. Stephen Tang, President & CEO, University City Science Center in “Philadelphia Delivers” Amazon bid video.

It’s a snide, callous analogy. That word, “feasting,” ironically calls to mind the competition implied by racist Social Darwinism in support of diverse capitalist expansion that ultimately (and not so ironically) leads to the deforestation and damming of places like the incredibly diverse Amazon bioregion. It is an insulting recuperation, or maybe the logical outcome, of a struggle for equal rights in a hierarchical system that feeds into economic, technocratic, and authoritarian progress.

In a world where the NSA has admitted widespread, unwarranted monitoring, and the expansive storing of the resulting data, it is less a how or if they use that data against us, but when. All sorts of frameworks and narratives could be constructed to serve these goals – as is the advantage of authority against dissenters – popularly enumerated in fiction by Orwell and in reality by all sorts of incarcerated or fleeing whistle-blowers. Amazon’s contributions to cloud services, drones, viewing and purchasing preferences directly aids that as well.

Our involvement in those services constantly improves their algorithms, which in turn dictates much of our existence. One need only look back a year to see this as a hot button issue concerning the results of the presidential election. For those who do not partake in social media and the like, it would be easy to end up on a “hidden people registry,” as the Invisible Committee suggests is the specific purpose of Facebook (from its own algorithms to its facial recognition software) in

a chapter called “Fuck Off, Google.” Meanwhile, we continue posturing to create our social media brand, as Mark Zuckerberg put it, further blurring the line between humans and corporate personhood – to say nothing of twitter bots that develop into fascist propagandists.

Additionally, social media is a tendency that treats everyone involved as a celebrity, open to the harshest, biting judgments by complete strangers, as was the case in what is called, “the first social media suicide” – an incident earlier this year in which a woman live-streamed her own suicide while commenters insulted her. Social media has time again been proven in scientific studies to both be addicting and a contributor to depression. Social media actually keeps us farther apart from loved ones, mediating our communications, on devices that degrade our sleep and our dreams.

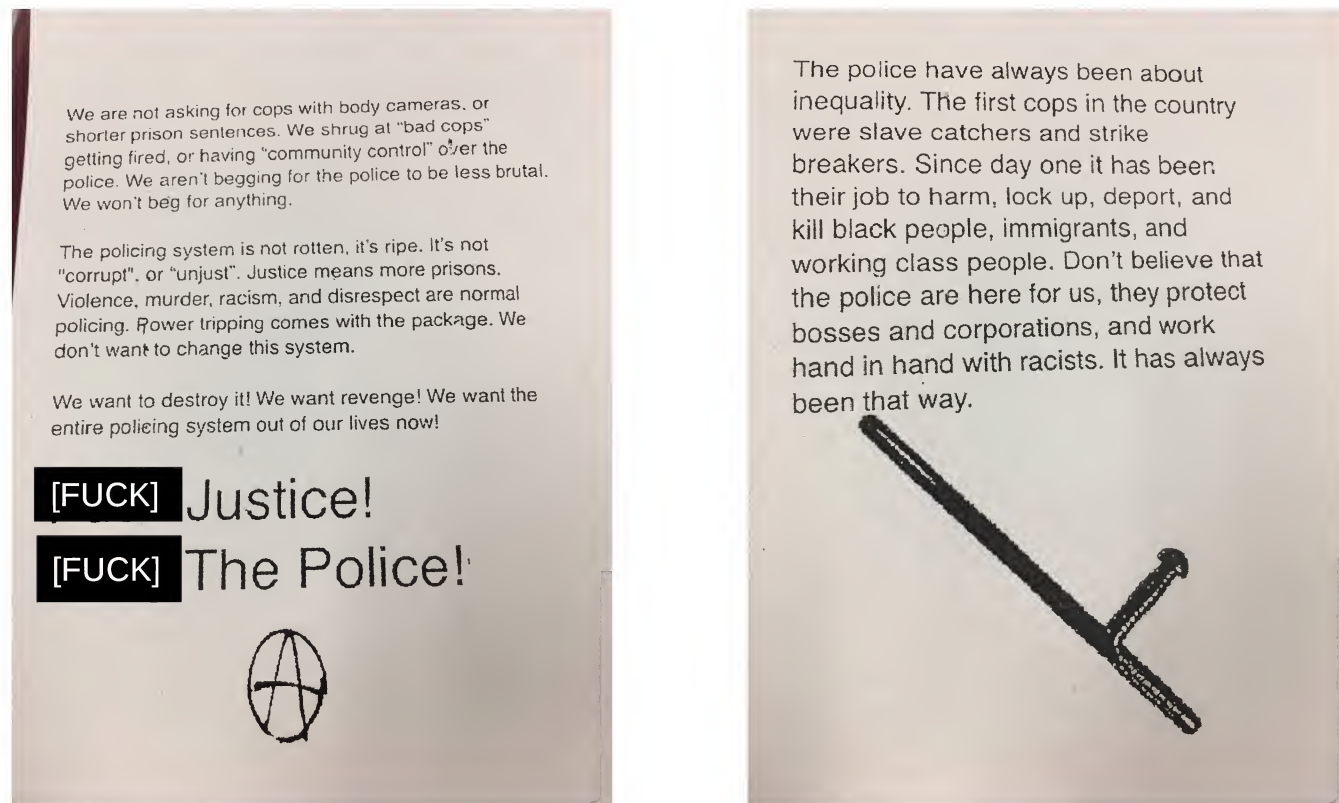
Even if we accepted the possible registries that chart us as criminal threats, it becomes incredibly difficult to get a job or purchase items necessary for life with digital interfaces saturating much of our lived experience. And if we ran off into the wild – that place that previously sustained so much life for no economic cost, named to make us fearful of it (whereas the cities had the streets named for the trees that it decimated) – the wild has been so thoroughly destroyed from canopy to soil that it could hardly sustain any of us, even if the constant growth of capital did not again encroach on that formerly free space.

It’s no wonder Ted Kaczynski went on a bombing campaign. He tried to leave. When the machines of industrial development began to migrate into his corner of the Montana wilderness, he tried to sabotage them – but it hardly slowed them down. He has returned to the limelight again recently: in a dramatized TV show focusing on the Philly-born FBI profiler involved in his arrest and in a recent Chicago Tribune article called “The iPhone X proves the Unabomber Was Right.”

Kaczynski’s misogyny, homophobia and racism are deep flaws that compromise his behavior and ideas for a way forward. The root of his critique, however, is still on point. As Industrial Society and its Future suggests:

“The Industrial Revolution and its consequences have been a disaster for the human race... Once a technical innovation has been introduced people usually become dependent on it, so that they can never again do without

[“The Price...” cont. pg 8]



**Pictured above:** Flyers found following November 16th attack on police substation.



## J20 UPDATE

Opening statements for the trial of the first six defendants arrested on Inauguration Day begin on Monday, November 20 and Tuesday, November 21, and the trial will continue on the 27th after breaking for Thanksgiving. The defendants, two of whom live in Philly, are still being charged with six felonies and two misdemeanors, and are facing up to 60 years in prison if convicted. Supporters have been asked to pack the courtroom for the trial.

Earlier this month, the government reduced the six felony and two misdemeanor charges for seven J20 defendants set to go to trial on December 11 to only three misdemeanors. No explanation was given. Days later, the government reportedly flipped the charges back to felonies, also without explanation.

The case began on January 20th, when 230 people were indiscriminately mass arrested during demonstrations against Donald Trump's inauguration in Washington, DC. DC police kettled individuals on the corners of L and 12th Street without orders to disperse and held them there for hours with no food, water or toilets. 214 of these arrestees were charged under the Federal Riot Statute. On April 27th, multiple additional felony charges were added, meaning that the remaining defendants now face up to 75 years in prison. The case is an unprecedented attempt to redefine protest as "rioting" and increase the criminalization of minor property destruction.

Nearly 200 of the defendants have refused plea agreements and will be going to trial starting this month through October of 2018. The trials are scheduled in blocks, with each group consisting of around 8-9 people.

DC Police Chief Peter Newsham, who ordered the mass arrests, claimed recently in an appearance on the Kojo Nnamdi Show that J20 defendants were responsible for the limousine burning on January 20th, encouraging the public to further criminalize the defendants and justify their prosecution. Although the limo burning was one of the most widely circulated images of the demonstrations afterwards, the incident actually happened nearly five hours after the J20 defendants had already been detained and has no relevance to the case. Newsham also ordered a mass arrest in DC in 2002 that kettled 400 protesters, after which settlements were later paid out.

Defend J20 Resistance is campaigning to raise \$250,000 to support J20 defendants throughout the trials over the next year. Donations are being taken at: <https://fundrazr.com/j20resistance>. ★

## *Is It A School Or A Prison?*



**Have you ever noticed how difficult it is to tell the difference between highschools and prisons?**

**They look the same because they are the same.**

Students are allowed past the fences at the end of the day, but the very nature of school ensures that they are never really free. School carries the crushing weight of regulation and coercion that systematically destroys the natural curiosity of young people, and the very concept of 'learning' becomes synonymous with dull routine. The uninspired monotony of school couches itself in the language of experimentation, when it is really nothing more than a regiment of training. When this regiment eventually succeeds in butchering every ambition that we ever had to explore ideas and discover something new, we are reduced to mere spectators. After a lifetime of having the stars beaten out of our eyes, we numbly file off to college or work.

## VAUGHN PRISON REBELS INDICTED

Last February, prisoners in Smyrna, Delaware revolted against the inhumane conditions they are subjected to inside Vaughn Prison, going so far as to condemn Donald Trump's policies as a continuation of inhumane activity by the state. In that call to the press, protesters implicated the prison system in recidivism due to lack of educational opportunities, in addition to torturous conditions stemming from poor allocation of funds that result in malnourishment, among other cruel insults.

Prosecutors in the case may seek the death penalty against those charged in the prison uprising, even though the state does not currently allow capital punishment. Eighteen prisoners have been indicted for their alleged roles in the February occupation. Sixteen are charged with first-degree murder in the death of a correctional officer.

In a letter earlier this month, prosecutors informed Judge William C. Carpenter Jr., who is presiding over the case, that if lawmakers vote to reinstate the death penalty, prosecutors reserve the right to try to apply it to every prisoner charged.

The state Supreme Court declared Delaware's death penalty law unconstitutional last year because it allowed judges too much discretion and did not require that a jury find unanimously and beyond a reasonable doubt that a defendant deserves execution. That ruling came after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Florida's death sentencing law, which was similar to Delaware's.

Family and supporters of the prisoners have continued to enumerate those conditions that lead to the Vaughn Prison Uprising, adding that attempts at nonviolent communication went unanswered – leaving prisoners no other choice but rebellion.★